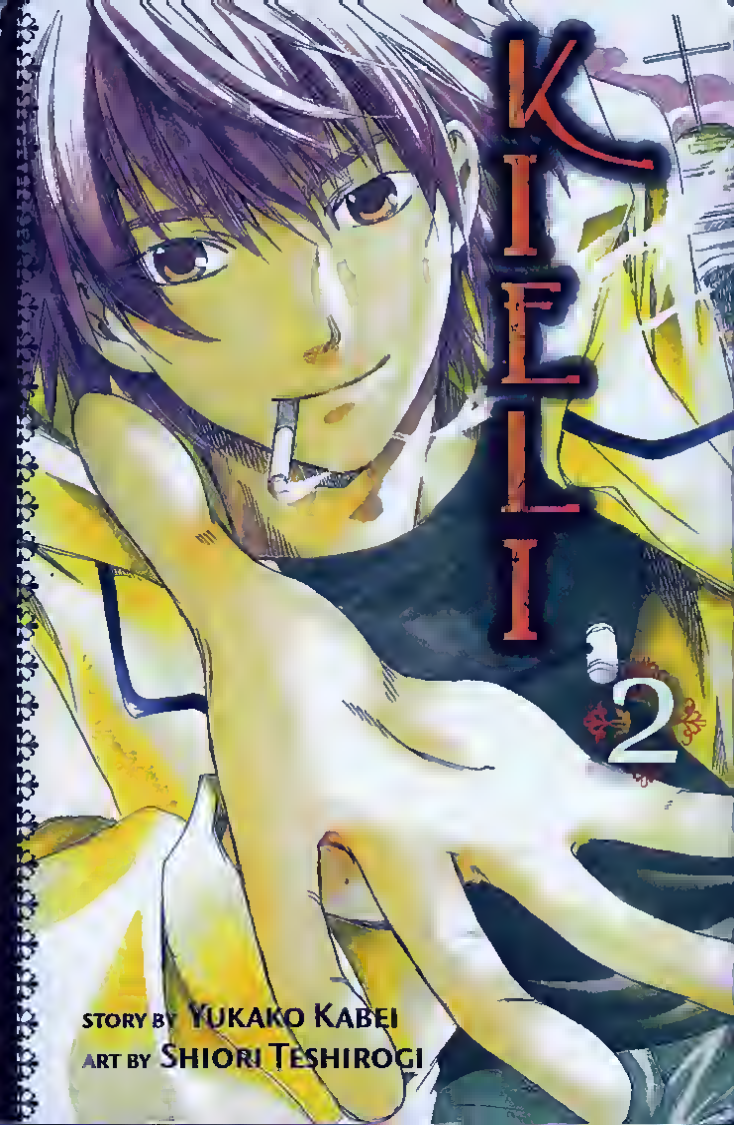
KIELI
2
STORY BY YUKAKO KABEI
ART BY SHIORI TESHIROGI

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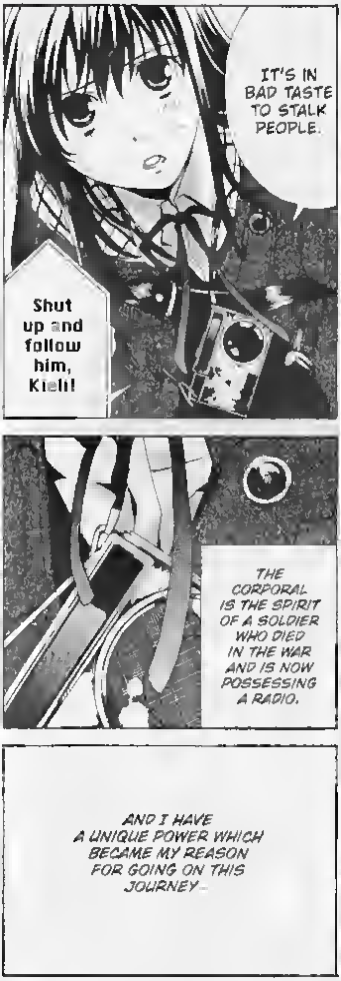
CHAPTER 4
"I'M HOME."


IT'S IN BAD TASTE TO STALK PEOPLE.
Shut up and follow him, Kieh!
THE CORPORAL IS THE SPIRIT OF A SOLDIER WHO DIED IN THE WAR AND IS NOW POSSESSING A RADIO.
AND I HAVE A UNIQUE POWER WHICH BECAME MY REASON FOR GOING ON THIS JOURNEY...
WE'VE REACHED THE SIXTH DAY OF THE COLONIZATION DAYS HOLIDAY
...AND THE THIRD DAY OF WHAT I'M CALLING A "RESEARCH TRIP" WITH THIS STRANGE PAIR
CORPORAL, CAN'T WE GO BACK NOW?

...THE POWER TO SEE GHOSTS...
EVEN ON THIS TRIP, I'VE ALREADY DEALT WITH A FEW SPIRITS.
IT MIGHT BE BECAUSE OF THIS POWER THAT I'M THE WEIRDEST GIRL AT MY SCHOOL. MY ONE AND ONLY FRIEND WAS THE GHOST OF A SCHOOLGIRL, BUT SHE DISAPPEARED.
BUT NOW I HAVE A FRIEND WHO CAN SEE GHOSTS TOO.
Wah! He'll see us!
Hide!!
SA (VOX)

A LEGENDARY UNDYING. HARVEY.
THEY CALL THEM DEMONS OF WAR, AND THEY WERE CREATED IN ORDER TO FIGHT IN THE WAR THAT ENDED EIGHTY YEARS AGO
THEY WERE MADE BY IMPLANTING SOLDIERS' CORPSES WITH STONE HEARTS THAT CONTAINED A LIMITLESS POWER SOURCE AND THEY'VE LIVED FOR DECADES, UNCHANGED.
IF WE FOLLOW THE UNUSED TRACK SOUTH OF THIS STATION, IT WON'T BE TOO FAR TO THE ABANDONED MINE
IT STARTED WHEN WE ARRIVED AT THIS TOWN'S TRAIN STATION A LITTLE BEFORE EVENING
SO IF YOU WANT TO KNOW WHY I'M PLAYING DETECTIVE AND TRAILING THIS HARVEY IN THE FIRST PLACE...

IF WE START WALKING IN THE MORNING, WE COULD GET THERE AROUND SUNDOWN.
WHAT?
YOU KEEP SAYING THINGS LIKE THAT, BUT WE WALKED A LOT FROM THE LAST STATION
DID NOT.
DID TOO!! BESIDES, IT'S ALREADY EVENING!
I KNOW THAT WE'LL REST TODAY AND SET OUT IN THE MORNING!
!
PHEW
!
OH.

PERFECT TIMING THERE'S A PLACE IN THIS TOWN I WANT TO STOP BY.
YOU TWO GO FIND A HOTEL AND TAKE IT EASY.
All right! After him!!
EEH!?
AND.. WELL HERE WE ARE.
That bothers me
To think that heartless bastard would have a place he'd go out of his way to visit...

!
THE STREETS HERE ARE SO COMPLICATED I'M AMAZED HARVEY DOESN'T GET LOST.
He went inside!
ТА СЛАВНО

HERBS...

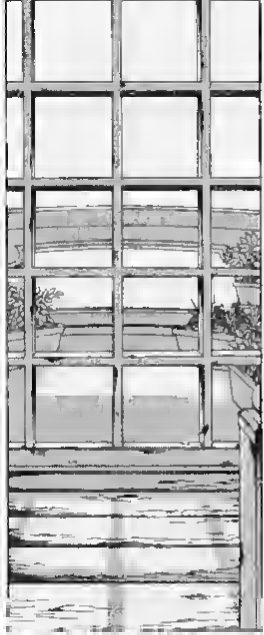
THAT'S UNUSUAL, GROWING PLANTS ON THIS PLANET NOWADAYS...
SO YOU'VE COME BACK ...?
I'M HOME.

DON'T JUST STAND THERE... COME IN. IT'S YOUR HOUSE.
I DUNNO WHAT YOU'RE UP TO, OR WHY YOU'VE GOT THE CORPORAL WITH YOU...
IT WAS THE CORPORAL'S IDEA..
AH—

. OKAY
...BUT HOW ABOUT COMING IN?
!
THE HERBS...WHEN DID THEY WILT...?
CORPORAL ..... THIS HOUSE ...!!
I know.

WELCOME.
I'm here too.
THIS IS KIEL!
ARE YOU HAPPY? HARVEY...
THEY SEEM TO BE PLEASANT COMPANIONS.
BEDS...
IT'S A CLINIC...

.....
!
...IT'S NOT SO BAD...
WELL, RIGHT NOW...



THINGS MIGHT BE PRETTY GOOD
"IT'S NOT SO BAD"...?

This is a nice place.
YEAH.
THE HOUSE IS PEACEFUL, JUST LIKE THAT OLD MAN.

!
A BOY... I WONDER WHAT HE'S LOOKING AT...
AH, I'M SEEING WHAT HE'S SEEING...

HARVEY...?
BE FRIENDS WITH HIM, TADAI.
FATHER ...
HE'S CALLING ME "TADAI". I'VE ENTERED THIS BOY'S CONSCIOUSNESS.
IS THIS MAN THE OLD MAN I MET EARLIER? NO, HE'S SOMEONE ELSE.

NOW, TADAI.
SHAKE HANDS WITH HIM.
LEFT HAND!!
SO WITH MY RIGHT
KH-NO
SFX: SA SA (PULL BACK)
SFX: ZURU (SLIDE)
SFX: ZURURU (SLIDE)

A-HA-HA. HE'S SO CLUMSY.
BUT HE'S SMILING.
HARVEY IS SMILING...

WHAT'S THAT SOUND?
I PICKED UP ON THE MEMORIES OF A DEAD PERSON AGAIN.
I'M BACK... I'M SURE THAT WAS A SCENE FROM THE PAST..
HARVEY, ARE YOU GOING SOME-WHERE?
THAT DOOR DOESN'T FIT RIGHT
FOR A SMOKE.
EH? BUT THIS HOUSE ISN'T...
I'LL GET IN TROUBLE IF I SMOKE INSIDE
SMOKING IS STRICTLY PROHIBITED IN THE CLINIC.

WOULD YOU LIKE TO SEE SOME OLD PHOTO-GRAPHS?
HE'S CONSCI-ENTIOUS ABOUT THE WEIRDEST THINGS
!
.....I WOULD!!

That bastard really doesn't age.
.....
SO HARVEY CAN SMILE LIKE THIS...
WHEN HE SMILES LIKE THIS HE LOOKS SURPRISINGLY CHILDISH.

THE MAN IN THE BACK IS MY FATHER. HE WAS A MILITARY DOCTOR.
THE ONE IN FRONT IS ME FROM WHEN I WAS YOUNGER.
HE PICKED HIM UP ON HIS WAY BACK HE HAD BEEN BURIED UNDER A MOUNTAIN OF DEAD SOLDIERS
I WAS VERY YOUNG AT THE TIME.
IT WAS QUITE A SHOCK TO BE TOLD TO BEFRIEND THAT HALF-DEAD CORPSE WHO HAD PRACTICALLY BEEN DUG OUT OF A GRAVE.
MY DAD DIDN'T ONLY LOOK AFTER THOSE WHO WERE INJURED IN THE WAR HERE.
HE ALSO WORKED WITH A CHARITABLE GROUP THAT BURIED THE MOUNTAINS OF CORPSES THAT WERE LEFT BEHIND ON THE ANCIENT BATTLE-FIELDS
SO THAT BOY REALLY WAS THIS MAN.
...ND, THAT WAS HARVEY, RIGHT, AFTER THEY TOOK HIM IN

HE AND HIS FATHER...
EH...?
BUT...
A LITTLE WHILE AFTER THAT PICTURE WAS TAKEN, MY DAD DIED, AND HARVEY DISAPPEARED. HE NEVER CAME BACK
NOT EVEN ONCE?
Kiell, the Undying can't stay in one place for too long.
HELPED THAT EMPTY HARVEY TO SMILE SO BRIGHTLY
If he was here long enough for that little boy to get as old as he is in this picture, he was already here far too long.
The people around him inevitably get suspicious. At any rate, the Church pays out a huge reward for Undying.
YOU COULD BUY A SHIP WITH IT

ACTUALLY, WHEN HE LEFT, WE HAD BEEN FIGHTING.
...IS...
...WHAT HE SHOUTED BEFORE HE HIT ME AS HARD AS HE COULD... THAT SWEET, LITTLE OLD MAN.
FIGHTING ? GEEZ, HARVEY...
"SO YOU'RE SAYING THAT YOU MAY HAVE OWED MY DAD, BUT YOU DON'T OWE ME ANYTHING
...AND NOW THAT DAD'S GONE, THERE'S NO REASON FOR YOU TO STAY, IS THAT IT?"

WELL, I APPRECIATED THAT HE HAD THE GUTS TO HIT AN UNDYING AND DIDN'T HIT HIM BACK
COMPLETELY DIFFERENT FROM THE SMILE IN THE PICTURE...
WHEN DID HE DEVELOP THIS PERSONALITY?
KIEL.
IS IT OKAY IF WE STAY HERE TONIGHT?
IT'S A LITTLE DUSTY, BUT I FOUND A ROOM ON THE FIRST FLOOR THAT I THINK YOU COULD SLEEP IN.
THEN LET'S GO. THERE'S NO ELECTRICITY HERE, SO WE WON'T BE ABLE TO SEE ANYTHING SOON.

YOU SHOULDN'T NEED AN EXPLANATION TO FIGURE IT OUT!
DON'T YOU GET UPPITY WITH ME! IT'S ALWAYS ONE EXTREME OR THE OTHER WITH YOU! EITHER YOU DON'T SAY ENOUGH, OR YOU SAY FAR TOO MUCH!
HEY, ABOUT WHAT YOU SAID EARLIER.
THAT WAS BECAUSE YOU SUDDENLY SAID YOU WERE LEAVING. WITHOUT AN EXPLANATION!
KUKU CRACKERS
KUKU
YOU'RE ABOUT THE SAME AGE AND JUST AS FOUL-MOUTHED, CORPORAL.
Whaa-aaat!?
YOU NEED TO LEARN A LITTLE CONSIDERATION FOR THE PEOPLE YOU'RE TALKING TO!
ARGH DON'T LECTURE ME! I WASN'T ASKING, DAMMIT!
What are they, little kids?
PFFT!
I'M REALLY GLAD THEY WERE ABLE TO TALK AGAIN
JUST LIKE IT SEEMED IN THE PICTURE, THE TWO OF THEM ARE LIKE BEST FRIENDS AND BROTHERS

I REALLY AM...
IT CHANGED BACK WHEN THE SUN CAME UP. THIS HOUSE

I'M SORRY ABOUT DRAGGING YOU ALONG YESTERDAY.
OH, DON'T BE.
I'M GOING TO VISIT HIS GRAVE. WILL YOU COME?

THE OLD MAN'S GRAVE DOESN'T HAVE AN EPITAPH. HE DIDN'T HAVE ANYONE TO ATTEND HIM ON HIS DEATHBED.
!?
THE OLDER GRAVE NEXT TO IT...
"HERE LIES HARVEY, MOST BELOVED SON OF TADIUS AND ELDER BROTHER TO TADAI"?
SON, TADAI
FATHER, TADIUS
OLDER BROTHER, HARVEY?
BUT HARVEY'S ALIVE
HUH?

THEY GAVE ME THAT SON'S NAME.
THE ELDEST SON IN THEIR FAMILY
APPARENTLY, HE DIED IN BATTLE SIX MONTHS BEFORE THE WAR ENDED
KIEL!
I'M GOING TO STAY HERE A LITTLE LONGER
WOULD YOU GO EAT BREAKFAST WITH THE CORPORAL OR SOMETHING TO KILL TIME?

...I GUESS YOU DON'T WANT ME WAITING HERE...
NO. SORRY ...
...BUT...
...I WANT TO BE BY MYSELF FOR A WHILE...

...THEN I'LL BE OFF...

WAAH!
GYA (SCREECH)
SO (CRUNCH)
THERE WAS SOMETHING ON TOP OF THAT THREE-WHEEL TAXI WASN'T THERE ?
A nasty, evil spirit is making mischief. It's best not to get involved.

He eats.
BUT IT FEELS LIKE HE'S JUST PUTTING IT IN HIS MOUTH...
COME TO THINK OF IT, HARVEY DOESN'T EAT, DOES HE?
I HOPE THERE'S NOT A BIG ACCIDENT OR ANYTHING...
On top of that, the abnormal cellular regenerative power of the blood pumped by their hearts makes them immortal
BUT WELL I SEE
"FAILURES AT LIFE"
BUT THERE ARE A LOT OF TIMES I'VE SEEN HIM WITH JUST HIS EYES CLOSED
AND I'VE NEVER SEEN HIM SLEEP EITHER...
BUT IF HE DOESN'T SLEEP, THAT MEANS HIS WORLD NEVER PAUSES.
Convenient bastards
All life functions for Undying are maintained by their hearts' unlimited power source, so they don't need to think about how they live.
That's how they can be failures at life, like him

I WONDER WHAT THAT FEELS LIKE...
'KAY
Kieli, we'd better get going soon. There are evil spirits around, like that one earlier.
If you get hurt while Harvey's not around, I'm the one who'll get smashed to pieces.
BOBO
SPUTTER
BOBO
EH?
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?

WITHOUT THE SENSE THAT TODAY WILL END OR TOMORROW WILL END...

...HE KEEPS ON LIVING IN THAT MONOTONOUS FLOW OF TIME FOR DECADES...

AH...!
That evil spirit's at it again!
BO SHUTTERO
BO
BO
BO
BO
BO
TA CRASH
LOOK OU—

GATSUN (THUD)
GYA SCREECH)
GYA
GYA
KEKEKE!
SU (CLUMP)

WHAT'S HE LOOKING AT?
!

GEEZ!

PAIN (TWO)
HERE.
FOR AN INSTANT...
NO, I SHOULD BE THANKING YOU.
THANK YOU...

FROM YOUR UNIFORM I'D SAY YOU'RE A STUDENT AT THE EASTERBURY BOARDING SCHOOL
TRAVELING ALONE IN UNIFORM?
AH! IT'S A RESEARCH TRIP AND I'M NOT ALONE.
I THOUGHT HE LOOKED LIKE HARVEY.
HE'S WEARING PRIEST GARB... SO HE'S A PRIEST ON A LOCAL PILGRIM-AGE...
WAAH! CORPO-RAL!!
I-I'M SORRY, I'M IN A HURRY! GOOD-BYE!
Dammit, Kiel!!
PYU (WOOSH)
?

KA
(SCRAPE)!
THERE... DONE.
HERE LIES TADAI SON OF TADIUS YOUNGER BROTHER OLDER BROTHER AND FIRST FRIEND TO HARVEY
RIGHT NOW, MY LIFE'S GENERALLY NOT SO BAD, SO DON'T WORRY ABOUT ME.
I ENJOY WHAT I CAN WHEREVER I AM, AND THERE'S SOMEONE WHO MAKES LIFE GOOD.
BUT...
WELL, YOU'LL JUST HAVE TO MAKE DO WITH THIS

...AS YOU COULD EXPECT, I'M FED UP WITH IT...JUST IMAGINE.
...EVERY SINGLE PERSON I MEET LEAVES ME BEHIND. THEY JUST UP AND DIE ON ME.
-SIGH-
SO NO ONE'S COMING TO GET ME AFTER ALL?
EVEN YOU, YOU DON'T GIVE A DAMN ABOUT HOW I FEEL. YOU'RE SATISFIED ENOUGH TO GO AND DIE...

WELL
...I GUESS IT'S STILL ALL RIGHT
Kieli! Hey, stop! I'm gonna break!
I'm rickety enough as it is!

WELL, IT WOULD'VE BEEN BIG TROUBLE IF YOU WENT ON A RAMPAGE BACK THERE, CORPORAL.
YOU'RE THE ONE THAT SAID IT'S BEST NOT TO GET INVOLVED WITH SPIRITS LIKE THAT.
ERK
Hey, Kieli !!!
HA (GASP)
Never-mind that.
AH! YOU'RE CHANGING THE SUBJECT!
It's good that it got you away from that guy. It's best not to get involved with him either.
I just have a hunch.
I was about to check on it when that annoying spirit came up.
UNLIKE HARVEY'S COPPER-COLORED EYES, HE HAD BLUE-GREY EYES- LIKE THE NIGHT SKY.
WHY? I THOUGHT HE WAS A NICE MAN

GLU CHUNK
WHA!?
WHY'D I THINK HE LOOKED LIKE HARVEY FOR A SECOND ...?
OTHER THAN THAT AND HIS EYE COLOR, HE DIDN'T REALLY LEAVE AN IMPRES SION

—!!
KIELI!!
What do you think you're doing!? ...Let go!!

THE RUBBLE IS..
DO (THUD)
GAGA (WHAM)

The hell was that...? Coming after us for no reason...
KEKEKE
WASN'T IT BECAUSE YOU'RE SO UNUSUAL, CORPORAL?
You okay, Kieli? Sorry about that.
I'M FINE IT WASN'T YOUR FAULT, CORPORAL
So you can be a gentleman if you try.
GIMME YOUR BAG.
SHUT UP I'M ALWAYS A GENTLE-MAN

ARE YOU OKAY, HARVEY?
WHAT? ARE YOU HURT? WANT ME TO CARRY YOU?
...THAT'S NOT IT
...AM I...?
OH, ME ...?
YOU IDIOT. DON'T WORRY ABOUT ME

...BUT BEFORE I KNEW IT, I WAS THE ONE GETTING SAVED...
IF YOU CAN WALK, LET'S GO.
GEEZ.. HERE I THOUGHT I WAS THE ONE LOOKING AFTER HER..

I FOLLOWED THE LEAD ON THE BLOOD FOUND IN EASTERBURY THAT LOOKED LIKE IT CAME FROM AN UNDYING BUT TO THINK IT WOULD LEAD ME TO EPHRAIM!!
HMM...
OHHH?
SO HE'S STILL ALIVE? HIS EYES ARE STILL THAT HORRID COLOR
AND TO THINK THAT THAT GIRL IS TRAVELING WITH HIM
WELL, ONCE THIS JOB IS COMPLETE, YOU WON'T HAVE ANY COMPLAINTS IF I TAKE HER, WILL YOU?
CHAPTER 8 ... HOME? / FIN

CHAPTER 5

THE DEAD SLEEP IN THE WILDERNESS

OUR DESTINATION, THE ABANDONED MINE—A RUIN FROM THE WAR—LIES BEFORE OUR EYES
THERE'S NOT MUCH LEFT OF THE COLONIZATION DAYS HOLIDAY
ZAKU (CRUNCH)
KO (STEP)
WE'RE ALMOST THERE, CORPORAL
THIS IS THE CORPORAL, THE SPIRIT OF A SOLDIER WHO DIED IN THE MINE DURING THE WAR, NOW POSSESSING A RADIO
ZAKU
We're almost there, Kieli.

I'VE HAD THE POWER TO SEE THE DEAD SINCE I WAS SMALL.
IT MIGHT BE BECAUSE OF THAT POWER THAT I'M THE WEIRDEST GIRL AT MY BOARDING SCHOOL, MY ONE AND ONLY GOOD FRIEND WAS A GHOST HERSELF.
HEY, CORPORAL.
WE CAME ALL THIS WAY TO VISIT THE CORPORAL'S GRAVE IN THE MINE.
BUT.
WHEN WE GET TO THE RUINS, YOU'LL GO ON TO THE NEXT WORLD, AND THAT WILL BE GOOD-BYE
TO A DEAD PERSON, THAT WOULD BE NATURAL BUT I'VE BEEN TRYING NOT TO THINK ABOUT IT.
..WON'T IT?

HARVEY IS AN UNDYING SOLDIER CREATED IN THE WAR THAT ENDED EIGHTY YEARS AGO. HE WON'T DIE EVEN WHEN KILLED— A "DEMON OF W.R." CHASED BY THE CHURCH'S SOLDIERS.
IN THE MIDST OF ALL THAT, I MET THE CORPORAL AND HARVEY.
BUT TO ME, HE'S THE FIRST PERSON I'VE MET WHO HAS THE SAME POWER TO SEE GHOSTS THAT I DO.

HONESTLY, I REALLY WISH THINGS COULD STAY LIKE THIS..
WE'VE TRAVELED THIS FAR TOGETHER, BUT AFTER WE LEAVE THE RUINS, I'LL HAVE TO GO BACK TO THE SCHOOL DORM.

!
WHAT ABOUT HARVEY ...?
OH NOTHING
WHAT'S WRONG?
WHAT WILL HARVEY DO THEN ?
WHEN WE SAY GOOD-BYE TO THE CORPORAL ..

FA CLANG
IT'S COLD..
ONCE WE GET THROUGH THIS TUNNEL, THE ABANDONED MINE'LL BE RIGHT THERE
O-OKAY.

!!
KO (SQUARE)
KYA...
DOO (WOOSH)

OOOO WHOOOOAH
.....
WH-WHAT... WAS THAT...?
THE PROVERBIAL GHOST TRAIN
It looks like there're still plenty of ultra-pure, fossilized resources left in this layer of the planet.

ZAZA (STATIC)
Especially in tunnels... Spirits like that one just now were witnessed on a daily bas.. is...
It's easy for spirit energy to stagnate in the magnetic field created in the strata of a planet with fossilized resources.

I'm a... little un... stable...
ZAZA

CORPORAL WHAT'S WRONG?
ZAZA
ZAZAZA
...i'm fine... Spirits are easily affected by the influence of these strata.

STILL, THIS SURE IS A LONG TUNNEL... I FEEL LIKE WE'LL NEVER REACH THE EXIT...
ARE YOU OKAY, CORPORAL?
Yeah.

ZA
AH...
A TUNNEL?
A LONG, NARROW, ENCLOSED SPACE
!
ZAZA (STATIC)
I'VE SEEN THIS SCENE SOMEWHERE..
WHAT IS IT? SOMETHING'S TUGGING AT MY MEMORY
ZA

!!

A DREAM ABOUT A WAR...
THAT'S RIGHT... I SAW IT ON THE TRAIN FROM EASTERBURY.

WE'RE HEADING FOR THE WAR RUINS.
IT'S NONE TOO SURPRISING.
HARVEY
DON'T WORRY.
RETREATING SOLDIERS RAN INTO THE MINE UP AHEAD DURING THE FINAL STAGES OF THE WAR
THIS SCENE'S A RESULT OF THE MEMORIES OF THE SOLDIERS BACK THEN WHO WERE SOWN THROUGHOUT THIS TUNNEL

They're here... The bastards are here ...!!
BARI (BUZZ)
Turn me off, Kieli...
CORPO-RAL? WHAT? WHAT'S THE MAT-TER?
(STATIC)
Turn off my power until we make it through here...!!
ZAZA
TURN HIM OFF!! NOW!!

THE GHOSTS OF THE SOLDIERS ARE AFRAID... ...IS SOMETHING COMING FROM BEHIND ...?
THERE'S SOMETHING FRIGHTENING THE SOLDIERS...
DON'T LOOK, KIEL!...

HAR-
VEY
...?
ST-

STOP!!!
GO
(PUNCH)

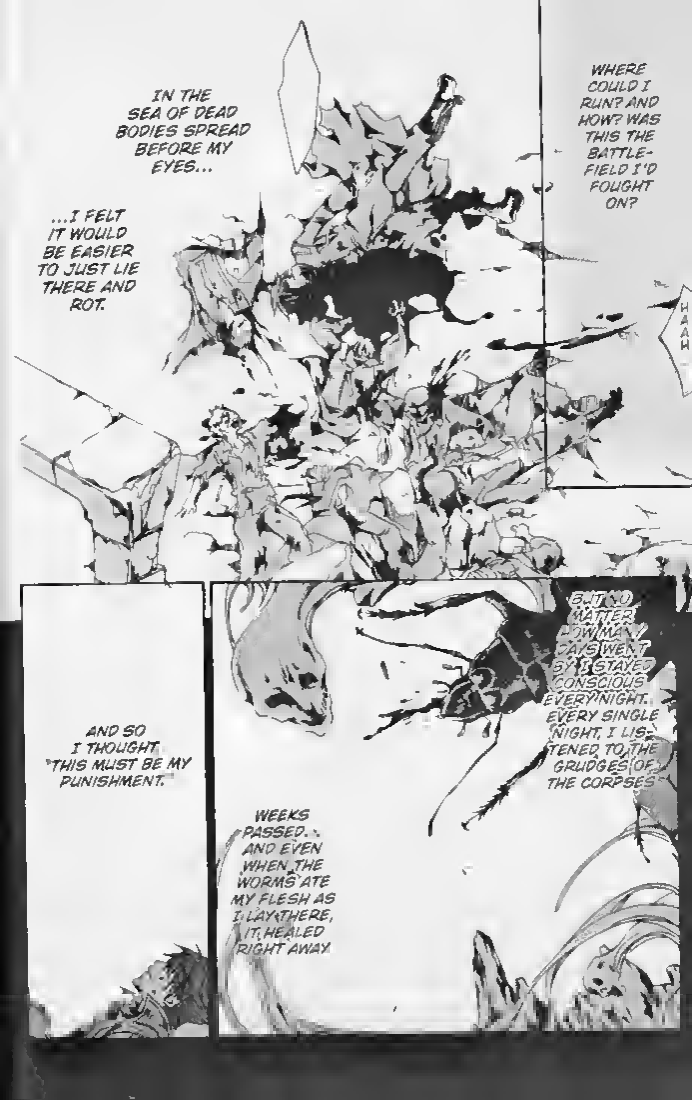
...P...
I WANT SHED...
...OP...
(SLIDE)
HE'S AS WHITE AS A SHEET
HARVEY... WHAT'S WRO—

LET'S GET OUT OF HERE.
LET'S HURRY UP AND GET OUT OF HERE.
I'LL TAKE YOU.
EPHRAIM...
EPHRAIM, HOW MANY DID YOU KILL?

EPHRAIM, HOW MANY DID YOU KILL?
"EPHRAIM"...?
OH THAT'S MY NAME FROM WHEN I WAS IN THE UNDYING CORPS...
THAT'S DEPRESSING; CUT IT OUT...JOACHIM.
THAT'S A DEPRESSING QUESTION.
I AGREE. JUDE WAS OUR SUPERIOR OFFICER.
AND, IN ACTUALITY, WE KILLED ALL OF THEM, AND THE WAR ENDED.
I'M NOT INTERESTED IN HOW MANY I KILLED. I JUST KILLED THEM.

CHURCH SOLDIERS! SCATTER! EPHRAIM, JOACHIM !!!
THE NEXT THING WE KNEW, IT WAS OUR TURN TO DIE.
JOACHIM... YOU'D ABANDON JUDE...
JUDE!
THE WAR ENDED, AND THERE WAS NO REASON FOR US UNDYING TO EXIST ANYMORE. INSTEAD, THEY NEEDED SOMEONE TO TAKE RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE WAR.

THE ROLE OF "SCAPEGOAT" WAS ASSIGNED TO US.
WITH THE CHURCH AT THE HELM, THE WHOLE WORLD WAS PUSHING THE BLAME ONTO EACH OTHER.
BAN (BAM)
...THE TRUTH BEHIND OUR LEGEND, THAT OF THE "DEMONS OF WAR"...
THE REASON BEHIND THE FORMATION OF THE CHURCH'S UNDYING HUNTING FORCE...
HA (GASP)
HA (PANT)


IN THE SEA OF DEAD BODIES SPREAD BEFORE MY EYES...
...I FELT IT WOULD BE EASIER TO JUST LIE THERE AND ROT.
WHERE COULD I RUN? AND HOW? WAS THIS THE BATTLE-FIELD I'D FOUGHT ON?
HAAH
AND SO I THOUGHT "THIS MUST BE MY PUNISHMENT."
WEEKS PASSED... AND EVEN WHEN THE WORMS ATE MY FLESH AS I LAY THERE, IT HEALED RIGHT AWAY.
BUT NO MATTER HOW MANY DAYS WENT BY, I STAYED CONSCIOUS. EVERY NIGHT. EVERY SINGLE NIGHT, I LISTENED TO THE GRUDGES OF THE CORPSES.

I WISH I COULD RETURN THIS TIME TO ALL THE PEOPLE I'VE KILLED UP UNTIL NOW .
IT'S TIRING, LIVING SHARES OF LIFE INTENDED FOR OTHERS.
AT THE VERY LEAST, I WON'T TAKE ANYBODY'S LIFE EVER AGAIN
I WAS SURE I'D TAKEN THE LOST TIME IN ALL THE LIVES OF THE PEOPLE I'D KILLED.
AND SO I HAD SUCH A LONG, LONG TIME FORCED ONTO ME THAT I COULDN'T SEE THE END OF IT. TO GET TO THAT END, I COULDN'T AFFORD TO SLEEP.

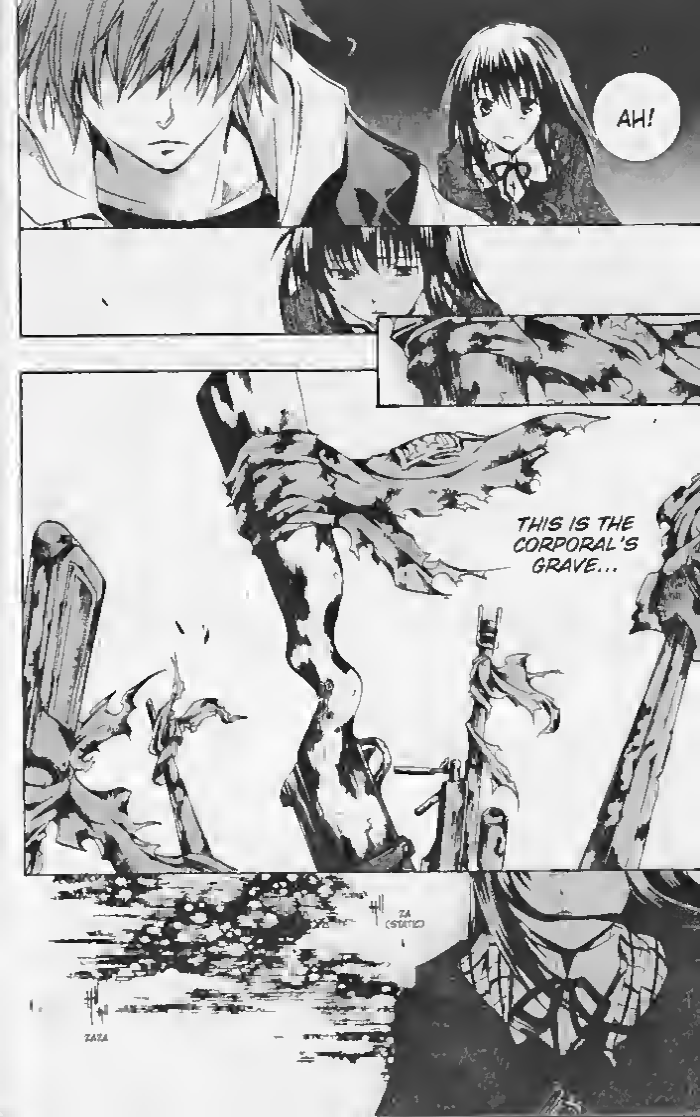
...AND HAVE THEM FORGIVE ME...

ARGH...
What are you beating yourself up for now?
The core of your heart's made of material with ultra-pure energy that was excavated from strata with the same characteristics as that tunnel.
I'M SORRY YOU HAD TO SEE ME LOOKING SO PATHETIC.
...OH, GOOD.
OH..
I KNOW I WAS CONSCIOUS
Kiell carried us out of the tunnel all by herself...
It probably resonated with the tunnel's magnetic field, and you had a spasm
...I'M FINE NOW...

I SEE. GUESS SHE SAW ME IN THAT SCENE FROM BEFORE...
AH!
I'M SORRY. I DIDN'T MEAN TO...
IT'S FINE...
IT DOESN'T REALLY MATTER
IT ENDED WITHOUT ME DIRTYING KIELI'S SKIN..
THE SPIRIT OF AN OLD PERSON...
YOU WANT US TO GET ON...?
!
YOU GROWN

SAND
OHHHH...
I WONDER WHAT THAT IS
THIS PLACE IS SUFFO-CATING.
I'm back... I'm back ...!

...OH.
HERE.
!
NOT ONLY THAT... IF THAT DREAM I HAD ON THE TRAIN WAS THE CORPORAL'S...
...THEN THE ONE WHO KILLED THE CORPORAL WAS...
HARVEY KILLED MANY OF THESE PEOPLE... WITH THAT EMPTY EXPRESSION. HE MIGHT HAVE KILLED DOZENS... MAYBE MORE
GRAVE MARKERS
LOTS OF GRAVE MARKERS


AH!
THIS IS THE CORPORAL'S GRAVE...
ZA (STATIC)
ZAZA

ZAZA
ZA
ZAZA
ZAZA
ZAZA

Thanks for bringing me all this way, Herbie.
I CAN'T ACCEPT YOUR GRATITUDE... I'M THE ONE WHO...
Herbie!
ZAZA CESTITCO
That was war. It was only natural that we'd kill each other.
That's all there is to it, right?
.....

...AND SAY, "GOOD-BYE, CORPORAL"...
—NKS
Well, then This is good-bye, Kieli.
YEAH. I HAD FUN TOO
Thanks to you, the last leg of the trip was a fun one.
I HAVE TO SAY IT—
...DON'T GO...
THIS IS THE LAST TIME, SO I HAVE TO SMILE.
...!

I DON'T WANT YOU TO GO CAN'T YOU STAY IN THE RADIO FOREVER!?
IT'S NO USE... I CAN'T STOP...
THEN I CAN KEEP IT, AND WE CAN ALWAYS BE TOGETHER
I'LL BE ALL ALONE AGAIN.
THE ONLY PEOPLE I CAN MAKE FRIENDS WITH ARE DEAD, AND THEY ALL GO FAR AWAY
KIELI?
IF ONLY I WAS DEAD TOO... SHOULD I DIE AND BECOME A GHOST?
HEY, CUT IT OUT!
THEN CAN WE BE TOGETHER FOREVER?

MAKE ME A GHOST AND TAKE ME WITH YOU!!
WHY?
YOU'RE JUST GOING TO GO AWAY SOMEWHERE TOO, HARVEY
IT WOULD BE EASY FOR YOU, WOULDN'T IT, HARVEY!? LIKE YOU DID TO THE CORPORAL...
KILL—
KIELI!!!
I'M SOR—
WHAT..DID I SAY JUST NOW...?
I DIDN'T MEAN TO...

I'M SORRY, HARVEY.
KIELI...
..WHEN WE GET BACK TO TOWN TOMORROW, GO BACK TO EASTER-BURY.
I'LL TAKE YOU AS FAR AS THE STATION.
...I'M SORRY...
I'M DESPICABLE...

ON THIS HARDENED GROUND, STAINED WITH THE BLOOD OF SOLDIERS...
GOT IT, KIELI?
...HOW LIGHT AND FOOLISH MY TEARS MUST BE.
WILL YOU BE GOING? CORPO-RAL...

I SEE.
Yeah. I'll leave before Kieli wakes up.

You can cut the act. What I'm asking is are you okay with it?
WHY ME?
...I DON'T CARE
IT'S EASIER BEING ALONE.
You're more stubborn than I thought...

Are you sure it's okay for you to leave Kieli?
Herbie.
IT'S NOT ABOUT IT BEING OKAY OR NOT.
IT'S HARVEY.

SHE'S A NORMAL GIRL. SHE'S JUST GOT A SLIGHTLY ABOVE-AVERAGE SPIRITUAL SENSE. SHE'LL BE HAPPIER LIVING IN NORMAL SOCIETY.

SAA CHAOOSH
...It looked to me like you were squaring old debts...
IT'S HARVEY THIS IS THE LAST TIME I'M GONNA CORRECT YOU.
One more thing, Herbie.
Truth is, you wanted to die here, am I right?
The reason you ended up agreeing to bring me here...and the reason you visited your old friends...

YOU DON'T HAVE TO..
... WORRY ABOUT PEOPLE TO THE VERY END AND THEN DISAPPEAR
HUH!?
ゴトン
GOTON CLUNK
...WELL, GUESS WE'D BETTER HEAD OUT SOON TOO.
CLUNK

THERE'S A DIFFERENT VIBRATION ON THE RAIL.
GATA (RATTLE)
GATA
GATA
JUST A— WHA—!?
WHY'D YOU START MOVING ALL OF A SUDDEN ...!!?
...A CHURCH SOLDIER'S ARMORED CAR ...!?
THAT'S...
GA (CHUG)
GA
GA
GA

GA
SHIT...
IF YOU SCREAM, YOU'LL BITE YOUR TONGUE! GOT IT!?
HYAH!?
HARVEY? WHAT IS IT? WHAT'S WRONG?
WERE THEY IN THE WINCH TOWER...?

DAKA CHARGED
DAKA
DAKA CHARGED
SHIT...
ARE THEY AFTER ME...? WHEN DID THEY FIND ME OUT...?
THE CHURCH MILITARY'S UNDYING-HUNTING FORCE ...!!
TA TA TA TA

JARA
GACHAG
GACHAG
CARBONIZATION GUNS.. GUNS THAT CAN KILL UNDYING..
GET AWAY!!
!?
THEY STOPPED ATTACKING..
WHY'RE THEY HESITATING . .?
HAR-VEY!!
IDIOT! I SAID TO STAY AWAY!!

OH, I GET IT.
DON'T MOVE !!!
MAKE A MOVE, AND I BREAK HER NECK.

WH—
THEY'RE ONLY AFTER ME. YOU JUST GOT TRICKED. YOU DIDN'T KNOW I WAS AN UNDYING
IF THEY ASK ABOUT ME, YOU JUST HAVE TO TELL THEM YOU DON'T KNOW ANYTHING. THEY'LL BELIEVE YOU.
WHY...? HARVEY?
KIELI..
!
BE QUIET AND DO WHAT I TELL YOU. UNDERSTAND?

'COS IT DOESN'T MAKE ANY SENSE THAT A GIRL FROM A BOARDING SCHOOL WOULD BE WITH AN UNDYING.
NO...
YOU CAN GO BACK TO THE BOARDING SCHOOL AND BACK TO YOUR NORMAL LIFE WITHOUT ANYONE SUSPECTING A THING.
BUT WHAT WILL YOU DO, HARVEY?
WILL I SEE YOU AGAIN?
I'LL RUN.
WILL I BE ABLE TO SEE HIM AGAIN? OR WON'T I?
HARVEY, NO... I MEAN, YOU'RE HURT...

GOOD-BYE, KIELI. YOU WON'T BE SEEING ME AGAIN.
HE LET HER GO! HE'S ESCAPED INTO THE LIFT AREA!

GOOD-BYE, KIELI.

CHAPTER 6

HOW MANY MORE STEPS TO THE BEACON OF LIGHT?

HUFF...
HUFF...
I'M SO STUPID...
I CAME TO THIS ABANDONED MINE TO HELP A SOLDIER PASS ON... A SOLDIER I KILLED IN THE WAR THAT ENDED EIGHTY YEARS AGO.

THE CORPORAL PASSED ON SAFELY, BUT THE CHURCH'S UNDYING-HUNTERS HAVE APPEARED .. SO NOW I'M ON THE RUN.. ALONE. THE REASON FOR THAT IS ..
HE WAS A CORPORAL, AND FOR SOME REASON, HIS SPIRIT WAS POSSESSING A RADIO.
AND WE MET A GIRL IN THE TOWN OF EASTERBURY ON THE WAY AND TRAVELED HERE AS A TRIO
CASHA
WE BLEW A CHUNK OUT OF HIS LEG HE COULDN'T HAVE GONE FAR.
HE'S CALLED HARVEY, RIGHT? BE CAREFUL. HE'S AN UNDYING
THEY WON'T DIE UNLESS WE SHOOT 'EM WITH THESE CARBONIZATION GUNS OR TAKE THEIR HEARTS OUT

GASHA
GASHA CHARGED
ARE THEY GONE, ?
THOSE UNDYING ARE HUMAN WEAPONS, CREATED TO KILL IN THE WAR EIGHTY YEARS AGO
THEY'RE "DEMONS OF WAR."
THE GIRL I MET IN EASTERBURY SHE ATTENDS THE BOARDING SCHOOL THERE AND CAN SEE GHOSTS.
UNAFRAID, SHE LATCHED ON TO ME, AN UNDYING WHO CAN SEE GHOSTS LIKE SHE CAN, AND TAGGED ALONG
TO THINK I WOULD SEND KIELI BACK TO GUYS LIKE THAT
I SHOULD'VE NEVER BROUGHT KIELI WITH ME IN THE FIRST PLACE.

IT WOULD BE BETTER FOR KIELI TO GO BACK TO NORMAL SOCIETY THAN TO BE WITH SOMEONE LIKE ME
THIS COULDN'T BE HELPED... BUT...
WE WERE CORNERED BY THOSE CHURCH SOLDIERS, AND I PUT HER IN DANGER.
GOOD-BYE, KIELI. YOU WON'T BE SEEING ME AGAIN.

I DIDN'T THINK THAT HER LOOKING AT ME LIKE THAT WOULD HIT ME SO HARD...
AUGH
A LIFT. I WONDER IF IT'LL MOVE
I'M SUCH AN IDIOT...

EPHRAIM
...
DON
GRAAAO
A CHURCH
SOLDIER
...!!
ZAGAGA
GRAAAO
!!
GASHA
GYAGHAAO

GOMMA
CHAKING
OOF
WHAM

AAAUGH.
AND I TRIED AS HARD AS I COULD NOT TO KILL ANYONE AFTER THE WAR.

I CAN'T RAISE MY RIGHT SHOULDER ANYMORE, HUH...?
I GOTTA HURRY.
IF THEY'D JUST LEAVE ME ALONE, I WOULDN'T HAVE TO KILL ANYBODY...
WHY DON'T THEY EVER STOP COMING AFTER ME..?
...
FWAO (WHAM!)
SFX: GASHA (CLACK)

I WAS IN THE SAME SITUATION WHEN THE WAR ENDED EIGHTY YEARS AGO...
...WHY AM I TRYING SO DESPERATELY TO GET AWAY?

...I GOT TIRED OF IT ALL AND STOPPED GOING ON.
I WAS BEING CHASED BY CHURCH SOLDIERS. WHEN I REACHED THAT WILDERNESS WITH THE CORPSES SCATTERED IN FRONT OF ME...
I COULD JUST STOP RIGHT HERE AND NOW... LIKE I DID THEN.
THIS TIME, THE CHURCH SOLDIERS WILL FIND ME AND KILL ME. NO PROBLEM.
LIGHT FROM THE CEILING...

THE SUBTLE SOFTNESS.
..OF THAT SAND-COLORED LIGHT..
..IT'S A LOT LIKE THE ATMOSPHERE AROUND HER...

GAKOH (CLUNK)
SU (PULL)
I GUESS I CAN GO A LITTLE FARTHER ...
IT MOVES ...
HAA (PANT)
JARI (CRUNCH)
JUST WATCH HER FROM A DISTANCE .. MAKE SURE SHE'S DOING OKAY ..
IF I MAKE IT OUT OF HERE, I GUESS I CAN GO SEE HER JUST ONCE

!?
HEY THERE, EPHRAIM. IT'S BEEN EIGHTY YEARS, HASN'T IT?
MY NAME FROM LONG AGO...
THE CORPSE MOVED...!?
JOACHIM WHY ARE YOU ?
ACTUALLY, I'VE BEEN HIRED BY THE CHURCH, AND I'M COLLECTING "CORES." RIGHT NOW, THERE'S A PRICE ON YOUR HEART SO BIG I COULD BUY A CONTINENT WITH IT
BASTARD FORGETTING THAT YOU'RE AN UNDYING YOURSELF
YEAH, IF I DON'T DO MY JOB PROPERLY, MY OWN LIFE WILL BE IN DANGER REALLY, I'D RATHER SIT BACK AND REMINISCE ABOUT THE OLD DAYS

THEN SHUT YOUR MOUTH.
GASHA
WELL, I DON'T WANT TO TALK TO YOU FOR EVEN A SECOND
RAN ISLAND

HERE THE GRAVE KEEPER CALLS ME, AND I COME BACK TO SEE WHAT'S UP.
I CAN'T EVEN DISAPPEAR IN PEACE...
SO UNDYING DON'T TURN INTO GHOSTS EVEN AFTER THEY DIE, HUH?
GIVE ME A BREAK.

WHAT WILL YOU DO, HERBIE?
IF YOU WANT TO LIVE A LITTLE LONGER..
WHAT ARE YOU GONNA DO? YOU COULD JUST END IT RIGHT HERE. THAT IS WHAT YOU WANTED, RIGHT?

...WILL YOU PUT A LITTLE EFFORT INTO IT?

EASTERBURY

I'M SORRY THIS IS ALL I COULD DO
ALL DONE.
PON (PAT)
OH, SCHOOL'S OVER ALREADY.
I SKIPPED HALF OF MY AFTERNOON CLASSES.
!
KIELI, WHAT ARE YOU SLACKING OFF HERE FOR?
ARE YOU TRYING TO MAKE ME DO ALL THE CLEANING?

WHAT IS THAT?
IT'S FOR A CAT THAT DIED.
DON'T TELL ME IT WAS A CAT YOU USED TO SUMMON A DEMON WITH?
WHAT!? TALK BACK!
OH, SO SHE WANTED ME TO TALK BACK TO HER-.
YOU'RE NO FUN!!
!

I WONDER IF IT LIKED THE GRAVE...
...VANISHED.
MEOW.
STILL VANISHED.
I SMILED A LITTLE FOR THE FIRST TIME IN DAYS.
WHO KNOWS.
DID YOU...
...HEAR SOMETHING JUST NOW?
...AND I RETURNED TO THE BOARDING SCHOOL IN EASTERBURY.
ON THE LAST DAY OF THE COLONIZATION DAYS BREAK, THE CHURCH SOLDIERS BROUGHT ME BACK...

FOR SOME REASON, MY TRIP WITH HARVEY AND THE CORPORAL
TURNED INTO MY BEING TRICKED BY AN UNDYING, TAKEN AWAY TO THE ABANDONED MINE, AND BEING RESCUED BY THE CHURCH SOLDIERS AS I WAS ABOUT TO BE EATEN HEAD FIRST
HANNI-SENSEI CRIED HER EYES OUT
YAWN ...
I'M NOT GETTING ANYWHERE ON THIS REPORT.. I GUESS I'LL JUST GO TO BED FOR TODAY.
COMPARED TO THE FEW DAYS OF THAT TRIP, WHERE EVERY SINGLE DAY WAS PACKED FULL, DAILY LIFE AT THE BOARDING SCHOOL HAS NO MAJOR VARIATION, AND I LEAVE EVERYTHING TO MOMENTUM.

BECCA, I'M GOING TO BED.
GOOD-NIGHT, KIELI!

CORPORAL.
THE GHOST GIRL BECCA, WHO WAS MY BEST FRIEND, PASSED ON TO THE NEXT WORLD AND DISAPPEARED RIGHT BEFORE MY TRIP...
OF COURSE SHE'S NOT HERE...
SFX. PUTSU (CLICK)
SINCE I FIRST MET THE TWO OF THEM, HIS FREQUENCY WAS NEVER SET TO LEGITIMATE CHANNELS, ONLY TO GUERILLA STATIONS.
I WONDER WHO FIRST SET IT TO THIS FREQUENCY.
ZA (STATIC)
ZAZA

A little higher... Higher!
I thought I told you, just a little further, Herbie!
Augh, you went too far, moron!
I BET IT WENT LIKE THIS...
IT'S HARVEY, CORPORAL.
THOSE— LONG FINGERS, HIS BIG HANDS...

THE ONE WHO BLAMES HIM THE MOST FOR KILLING ALL THOSE PEOPLE IS HARVEY HIMSELF.
IT'S NOT LIKE HIS BIG WARM HANDS EXIST FOR WAR ANYMORE. SO WHY...?
WHY WAS I AFRAID EVEN FOR AN INSTANT, OF THAT HAND WHEN HE TRIED TO TOUCH MY CHEEK AT THE ABANDONED STATION?
DON'T THINK ABOUT IT.
IT'S OKAY I'M SURE HARVEY MADE IT OUT OF THE ABANDONED MINE ALL RIGHT.
...AND IS GAZING ON THE SAND OCEAN IN THE FAR EAST ABOUT NOW

WHEN HE HEARS THE "ALL ABOARD," HE'LL STOOP DOWN TO PICK UP HIS BAG...
AND WALK OVER TO THE LANDING AT HIS USUAL FAST PACE.
IF ONLY HE WOULD LOOK BACK AND CALL OUT TO ME...

I'LL LEAVE YOU BEHIND, KIELI. WHAT ARE YOU DOING?

IS THE OCEAN THAT UNUSUAL?
NO... DON'T THINK ABOUT IT...
THAT HAND.

...WILL NEVER BE HELD OUT TO ME AGAIN.
BECAUSE...
"GOOD-BYE, KIELI. YOU WON'T BE SEEING ME AGAIN."
AHH...
...THE HEAD-MISTRESS CALLED FOR ME...
I WONDER WHY?
I DON'T REALLY KNOW MYSELF. AT ANY RATE, YOU'D BEST HURRY.

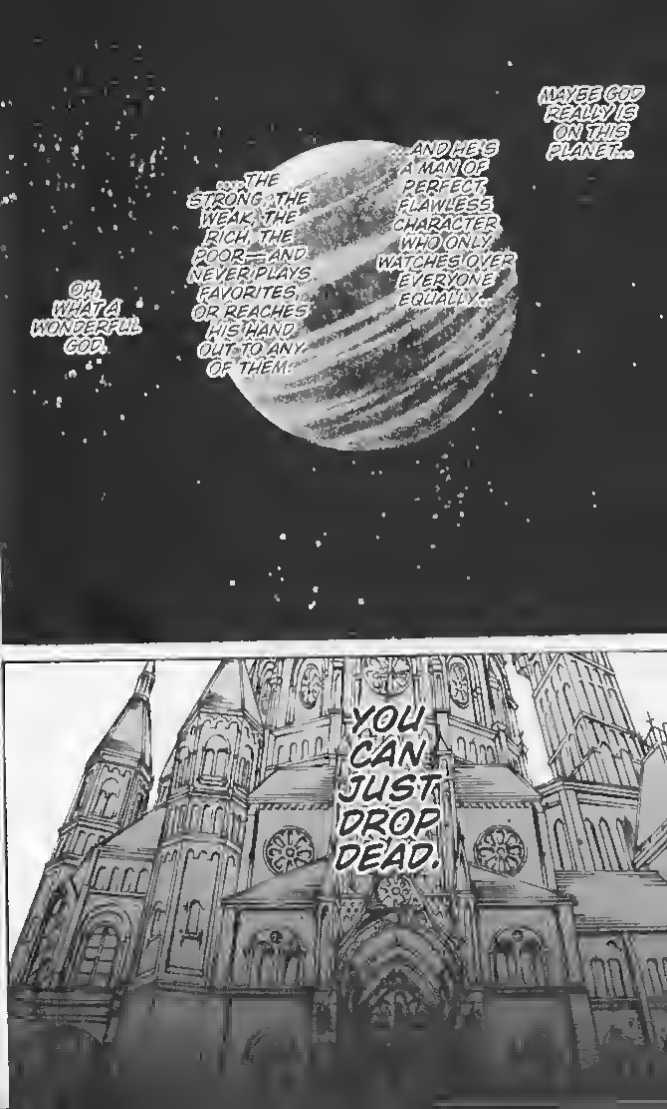
MAYBE SHE FOUND OUT THAT I WAS GOING TO SKIP BECAUSE I FELL ASLEEP ON THE RADIO LIKE THAT, AND IT LEFT A MARK ON MY FACE...
...OR I CAN'T GET FINANCIAL AID ANYMORE AND I'M BEING THROWN OUT OF THE BOARDING SCHOOL...
THAT MUST BE IT...
KYOTO (BLANK STARE)
.....
HEY THERE, KIELI. I'M GLAD I COULD SEE YOU AGAIN.

OH...
OH, YEAH... THE PILGRIM PRIEST I MET AT THE TRANSFER STATION...
HE HAS THE SAME GAZE AS HARVEY'S
THIS IS JOACHIM-SAN, FROM THE CAPITAL HE SAYS YOU'VE MET BEFORE?
UM...
SUR-PRISED?
SO YOU'RE A CHURCH LEADER!?
EH?
THE CAPITAL?
K-
KIEL!!!
WAAH!
IT'S ALL RIGHT. SHE'S STILL YOUNG.
YES. YOU DIDN'T SEEM LIKE ANYONE THAT IMPORTANT AT ALL.

KIEL!.
JOACHIM-SAN HAS A WONDERFUL PROPOSITION FOR YOU.
EH?
HE SAYS HE WOULD LIKE TO INVITE YOU TO THE MIDDLE SCHOOL DIVISION OF THE SEMINARY IN THE CAPITAL ON A SCHOLARSHIP.
I'M TOLD YOU HAVE NO RELATIVES
IF YOU LIKE, I WAS HOPING YOU WOULD COME TO THE CAPITAL WITH ME
ALSO ...
...I HEARD YOU HAD A TERRIBLE EXPERIENCE AT THE ABANDONED MINE IN THE EAST.
BUT...
...WHY ME...?

ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
I'M FINE...
NOBODY DID ANYTHING TO ME
IF IT MEANS PEOPLE ARE GOING TO ASK ME THOSE THINGS, THEN...
...DON'T CHASE HIM DOWN ANYMORE...

THIS DIVINE GUIDANCE.. FOR SUCH AN UNFORTUNATE GIRL AS YOURSELF TO GO TO THE SEMINARY IN THE CAPITAL!
THAT'S RIGHT, KIEL!! OH, ISN'T THIS MARVELOUS!?
N-NOW, NOW LET'S NOT TALK ABOUT SUCH PAINFUL EXPERIENCES
...OR SHELTER FROM THE COLD?
...THEN WHY DIDN'T HE GIVE THAT BLACK CAT JUST A LITTLE FOOD...
SAY, SENSEI, IF GOD REALLY IS HERE ..
THE LORD GIVES EVERYONE AN EQUAL CHANCE!
I SEE...


OH, WHAT A WONDERFUL GOD.
THE STRONG, THE WEAK, THE RICH, THE POOR — AND NEVER PLAYS FAVORITES OR REACHES HIS HAND OUT TO ANY OF THEM.
AND HE'S A MAN OF PERFECT, FLAWLESS CHARACTER WHO ONLY WATCHES OVER EVERYONE EQUALLY...
MAYBE GOD REALLY IS ON THIS PLANET...
YOU CAN JUST DROP DEAD.

HERE.

KOKU (NOD)
APPARENTLY, IT WILL BE A WHILE BEFORE WE DEPART.
CHOCO-LATE!!
DRINK THAT WHILE WE WAIT..
SUCH A LUXURY!! THEY DON'T SERVE THIS AT THE BOARDING SCHOOL CAFETERIA!
.. IT'S DELI-CIOUS ..!!
MINE'S COFFEE THOUGH
IF YOU LIKE IT, YOU CAN HAVE ANOTHER.

I WONDER IF YOU'RE COMPARING ME TO SOMEONE ELSE WHEN YOU SAY THAT?
—YOU'RE A FRIENDLY AND CONSIDERATE PERSON, JOACHIM-SAN
PERHAPS YOU KNOW SOMEONE WHO IS UNFRIENDLY AND INCONSIDERATE?
I WISH HE WOULDN'T SIT DIRECTLY ACROSS FROM ME... IT MAKES ME NERVOUS, BEING FACE TO FACE...
NO, NOTHING LIKE THAT...
ABOUT A WEEK AGO, I CAME TO THIS STATION WITH HARVEY AND THE CORPORAL, AND WE WENT FROM HERE TO THE ABANDONED MINE IN THE SOUTH...
IN THE END, I COULDN'T GO AGAINST MY TEACHERS' WISHES, AND NOW I'M AT THE TRANSFER STATION AND HAVE TRANSFERRED ONTO THE TRAIN TO THE CAPITAL.
HE LOOKS LIKE A GOOD-NATURED PERSON AT A GLANCE. BUT I CAN'T TELL WHAT JOACHIM-SAN IS THINKING.
IT'S KIND OF HARD TO BELIEVE...
HE'S TERRIBLY NICE, ISN'T HE?

I WANT TO HURRY AND BE ABLE TO MAKE MY OWN LIVING AND DECIDE WHERE I'M GOING TO GO OF MY OWN WILL. .
BAKO!
CLANG!
WAH!
I WONDER IF MAYBE HARVEY'S STILL IN THE AREA
IT'S NO USE
JUST STOP THINKING ABOUT IT ALREADY HARVEY SAID I WON'T GET TO SEE HIM AGAIN
AND NOW I'M GOING FAR AWAY FROM HERE.
WHAT IS IT? WHAT ARE THEY DOING WITH THE TRAIN ?
AH!

A CHURCH SOLDIER'S ARMORED CAR!
IT LOOKS JUST LIKE THE ONE THAT ATTACKED US AT THE MINE. PROBABLY... NO DOUBT ABOUT IT
JOACHIM-SAN! WHAT IS THAT DOING HERE...?
OH, IT SEEMS THE LOCOMOTIVE IS HAVING TROUBLE.
SINCE THE CHURCH SOLDIERS THAT HAD BEEN DEPLOYED IN EASTERBURY WERE GOING BACK NOW ANYWAY, IT WAS DECIDED THAT THE ARMORED CAR WOULD PULL THE PASSENGER TRAIN TO THE CAPITAL WITH IT
I HAVE A BAD FEELING ABOUT THIS.
CHURCH SOLDIERS...

GASHA
I WONDER IF HARVEY WAS REALLY ABLE TO GET AWAY
GASHA (CLANK)
GASHA
GASHA
!
HMM (THINKING)
SO IT WOULDN'T BE STRANGE FOR HIM TO GET REPORTS FROM UNDYING-HUNTERS
CHURCH SOLDIERS . I SEE . JOACHIM-SAN IS A CHURCH LEADER FROM THE CAPITAL

WHAT'S THE MATTER? THERE'S NOTHING TO WORRY ABOUT.
I'LL BE IN A CAR A LITTLE FURTHER UP. I'LL BE BACK LATER.
HM...
DOKN DOKN
OH, NEITHER.
THE UNDYING THAT WAS WITH ME... DID HE NOT ESCAPE...?
COULD IT BE THAT YOU CAUGHT HIM...?

.....?
IT'S ALL RIGHT. HE'S DEAD.

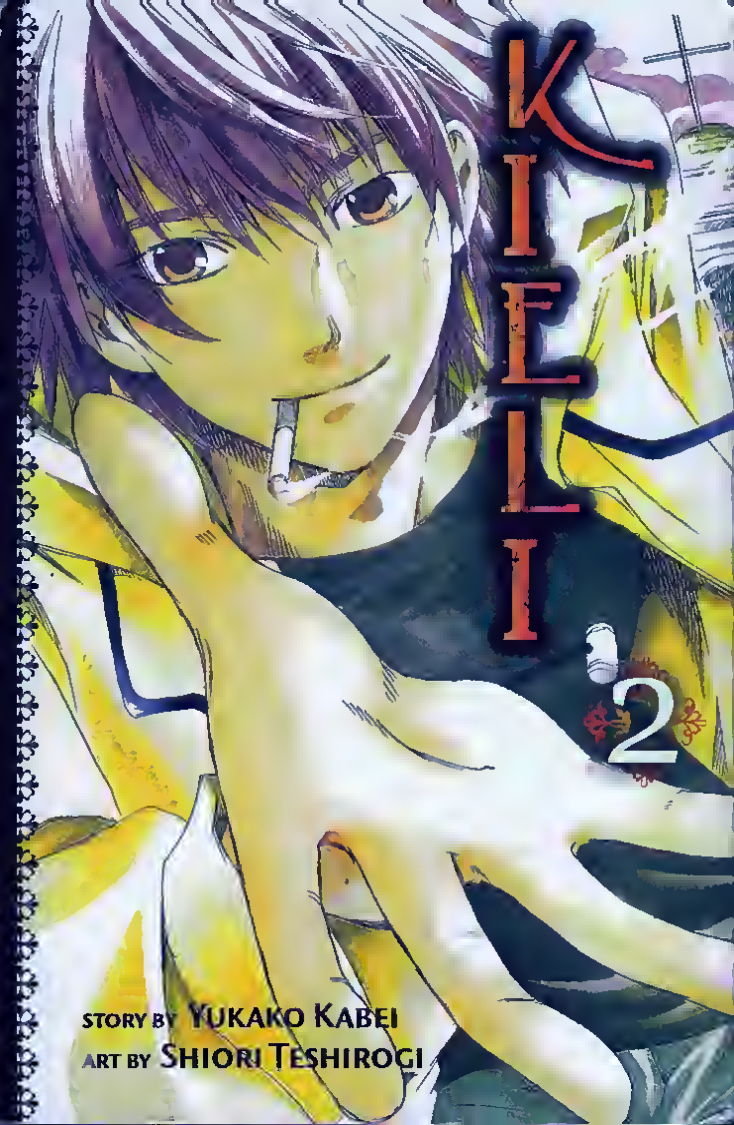
DEAD?
Kiell
...

IT'S NIGHT. ...I MUST HAVE FALLEN ASLEEP AT SOME POINT.
WHAT DID HE SAY EARLIER?
HE'S DEAD? BUT UNDYING DON'T DIE.
THAT'S STUPID. THAT'S A LIE.
Kieli.
!

Kieli... Can you hear me ...?
GATAN
—li.
GOTOTO
SOME-ONE'S... CALLING ME...?
Kieli
...
CORPORAL ...!?

GO (WHAM)
BYUUUU (WHOOOO)
CORPORAL ... CORPORAL, IS THAT YOU!!?
YOU CAME BACK!?
IT'S ONLY BEEN A FEW DAYS, BUT IT FEELS SO NOSTALGIC... HIS VOICE, MIXED IN WITH THE STATIC.

GASHU
THE FREIGHT CAR...?
Kieli... Can you hear me...? Go to the freight car...
Kieli... Can you hear me...? Go to the freight car...
GASHU
Kieli... Can you hear me...? Go to the freight car...
Kieli... Go to the freight car...


KIELI
2
STORY BY YUKAKO KABEI
ART BY SHIORI TESHIROGI

FINAL CHAPTER

GOD, IF YOU'RE THERE

...WE TRAVELED TO THE ABANDONED MINE WHERE THE CORPORAL'S GRAVE WAS, AND THERE WE MET WITH THE CHURCH SOLDIERS' UNDYING-HUNTERS. HARVEY AND I WERE SEPARATED
AFTER BEING RETURNED TO THE BOARDING SCHOOL, THE CHURCH LEADER JOACHIM INVITED ME TO GO TO THE SEMINARY IN THE CAPITAL
JOACHIM SAYS THAT HARVEY IS DEAD. BUT I DON'T BELIEVE THAT...
OUR JOURNEY TOGETHER, THE THREE OF US ISN'T OVER YET, IS IT?
THE CORPORAL THE SPIRIT OF A SOLDIER POSSESSING A RADIO, HARVEY THE UNDYING, AND ME A GIRL WHO CAN SEE GHOSTS. ON OUR JOURNEY TOGETHER.

I KNOW, CORPORAL IT'S OKAY. I CAN GET THERE IF I CAN SEE HARVEY
Kieli... Go to the freight car... Kieli...
Go to the freight car...
GASHU
JUST A LITTLE MORE ...
GASHU
I CAN GET TO THE DOOR IN THE CENTER OF THE FREIGHT CAR...
GASHU
IF I KEEP MOVING ALONG THIS RAIL BY THE SIDE WALL..
GASHU
MY FOOT'S SLIPPING FROM THE RAIL...
AH...

THIS ARM...
SSSH
GRAB!
I WANTED TO SEE HIM!
HARVEY! HARVEY!!
HE IS ALIVE...
HARV--

GOTEN (THUD)
...HAR-VEY?
GURA (WORRIED)

N-NO...
IT C'N'T BE. HE'S REALLY DE-
Calm down, Kiell. Don't panic.
...EH?
HE'S COLD.
BORO (CRUST)
I DON'T UNDER-STAND I DON'T UNDERSTAND WHAT YOU'RE SAYING..
MORE IMPOR-TANTLY, HARVEY'S NOT MOVING
HOW DID HE GET LIKE THIS...? I WANT TO TALK TO HARVEY...
I got this far by possessing Herbie's body.
It's fine that I could sneak onto the train, but it's gonna be impossible to walk around in his body anymore
That's why I rode the frequency of the guerilla station and sent my voice to you

I told you to calm down!! Crying's not gonna help anything!!
GOD CHOKO
I WANTED TO SEE HIM ONE MORE TIME!
The man that was riding in the car with you. I saw you both from the platform's shadow.
So my hunch was right
Damn We should have been more cautious about him
TOACHAA...?
Listen, Kieli. In his current condition, Harvey is just a corpse We're gonna get his heart's "core" back. Most likely, he has it—the one commanding the Church Soldiers.

I haven't told you this before, Kieli
It's something I heard from Herbie
The Church only tells its believers that it's after the Undying because they're criminals of war, or because their existence goes against God, or whatever
The heart "cores" that make the Undying immortal were the last fruits of the now-lost energy technology from before the war eighty years ago.
That lot just wants the technology and resources.

..HOW CAN THEY.. SO CRUEL..
I CAN IGNORE THE PAIN. I WAS TRAINED THAT WAY
TO BE TORN APART... THERE'S NO WAY IT DIDN'T HURT

I called you because I don't.
Kiell, you can cry later. Can you go get the "core"?
Or you can pretend you don't know anything and just go back to the passenger car. I won't say anything.
ARE YOU SAYING THAT BECAUSE YOU THINK I'D DO THAT?

GO CHNOOSHH
You okay, Kieli?
YEAH.
MY SKIRT... AND MY HAIR ARE GETTING IN THE WAY...
A LITTLE FAR-THER
WHEN THIS IS OVER, I'MGOING TO STOP WEARING SKIRTS!
AND I'LL CUT MY HAIR SHORT SO IT'S NOT IN THE WAY!!
BASH (GRAB)

YOU'RE PATHETIC, EPHRAIM.
OH.. GUESS YOU'RE HARVEY NOW.
WELL, THINK OF IT AS PROVIDING FOR MY PEACEFUL LIFE AND BE HAPPY. IF I SELL THIS, I CAN AFFORD TO DO NOTHING FOR THE NEXT THIRTY YEARS
OR MAYBE I'LL GO AHEAD AND BUILD MYSELF A SPACESHIP.
WE UNDYING HAVE THE TIME TO TRAVEL BOUNDLESS SPACE FOR ETERNITY AFTER ALL.

PAGM (CATCH)
HEY, EPHRAIM.
THAT TOY OF YOURS— KIEL! OR WHATEVER IT WAS. SHE REALLY PISSES ME OFF.
I'M SITTING RIGHT IN FRONT OF HER, AND SHE LOOKS RIGHT THROUGH ME. THAT GIRL DOESN'T THINK ABOUT ANYTHING BUT YOU.
A GIRL WHO SHOWS NO SIGN OF REJECTING US. UNDYING, THE DEMONS OF WAR
I THOUGHT SHE'D BE A GOOD WAY TO KILL TIME, BUT IT'S TAKING MORE THAN I EXPECTED TO WIN HER OVER.
SHE WAS SO ATTACHED TO YOU, EPHRAIM, SO WHY AM I NO GOOD? THAT'S NO FUN.

IT PISSES ME OFF!!
GORO (BOLL)
SASHA (CRASH)
THUD
SERVES YOU RIGHT.

JO-ACHIM-SAN!
KON (KNOCK)
KON
TCH
SO ANNOYING
KEEP UP THE GOOD WORK. WHAT'S THE MATTER?

UM...THE YOUNG LADY YOU BROUGHT WITH YOU HAS DISAPPEARED FROM THE PASSENGER CAR
DISAP-PEARED?
YES, SHE'S NOT THERE
KIEL...
THAT LITTLE GIRL!
WAH!
KA-SHOVE
KACHI CLICK!
KA-CHAK!
KA

IT'S NOT HERE...
BASA (CLAP)
BASA (RUSTLE)
GOSO GOSO (RUMMAGE)
GOSO (RUSTLE)
Is it hopeless ...?
Now that I think about it, it's not necessarily in his luggage. He might always keep it on him
HERE I THOUGHT THE "CORE" WOULD BE IN JOACHIM'S ROOM...
THEN HOW DO I GET IT BACK..?

HERE IT IS...
Why does he have it just lying around like this...?
KORO (ROLL)
THERE'S SOMETHING IN THIS COAT...
IT'S FLICKERING.
TOKUN (BABUMP)
IT'S LIKE THE WARMTH OF HARVEY'S HANDS.
TREAT IT WITH MORE RESPECT.
WITH THIS, HARVEY CAN COME BACK TO LIFE.

!
GAYA (CLATTER)
MY, MY WE HAVE QUITE THE LITTLE THIEF HERE, I SEE
GIVE IT BACK.
WHY WOULD I GIVE IT BACK TO YOU? THIS IS HARVEY'S "CORE."
BEAR WITH IT A LITTLE LONGER, HARVEY...
ROSA (RUSTLE)

Hold your ground.
Kiell, lure him closer...
!
NO CHUMO
!
BAN CHUMO
NO CHUMO

GEHO COUGHO
Kieli, run!!
AFTER THAT GIRL ...!!
WHAT ABOUT JOACHIM-SAN...?
FORGET IT, HE'S DEAD...
KIELI...
HALF OF HIS HEAD WAS BLOWN AWAY...

EEP ...!
NOW YOU'VE DONE IT... KIELI...

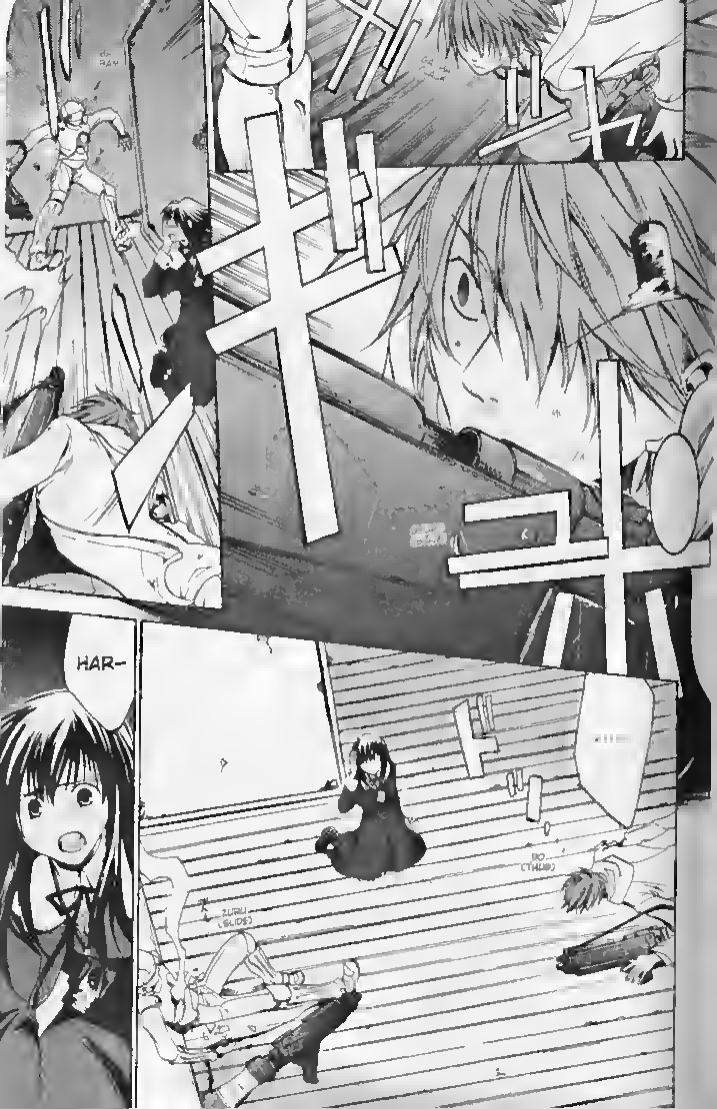
THERE SHE IS!
AFTER HER!
HUFF
HUFF
HUFF
HUFF
HAR-VEY...!

HARVEY...
...we'll deal with it then.
CORPORAL, WILL HE REALLY BE OKAY IF I PUT THIS "CORE" BACK IN HIS BODY?
WILL HARVEY COME BACK?
We won't know unless we try. If it doesn't work...
I JUST KNOW HARVEY WOULD GET MAD AT ME IF I TOLD HIM THIS...
...THIS TIME, I WOULDN'T MIND DYING WITH HIM.
...BUT IF IT DOESN'T WORK...
BOOM!
DON'T WANT...

!?
CHURCH SOLDIERS!!
Sorry, Kiell. I forced too much power earlier...
Damn...!
HYAH!
WHY YOU... LITTLE GIRL...!!
DON CRUNCH

HEY, LOOK AT THIS
!
ISN'T THAT THE UNDYING WE KILLED AT THE ABANDONED MINE?
STOP IT!!
HOW DID THIS GIRL BRING HIS CORPSE IN HERE?
GO CHUDO
DON'T TOUCH HIM! DON'T TOUCH HARVEY!!
STOP STRUG-GLING!!
GA CHUDO
WHY YOU...
!!

!!
AHHH!
Y-
YOU BAS-TARD ...


HAR-
ZURU (SLIDE)
RO (THUD)

GUH (GRAB)
WAH!
HE STOPPED MOVING AGAIN
HARVEY...?
WAKE UP COME ON
WHERE ARE WE...?
THE CHURCH SOLDIERS' TRAIN. THE CORPORAL BROUGHT YOU HERE, HARVEY.
AND WE GOT YOUR "CORE" BACK TOGETHER

AND THEN
SHUT UP WHAT ARE YOU DOING? WHY DO YOU END UP STICKING YOUR NOSE INTO EVERY-THING?
LOOK, YOU ..
...THE SMELL OF TOBACCO...
THE FORCE OF HIS STRONG ARMS, THE FAINT WARMTH OF HIS BODY..
...YOU HAVE NO IDEA HOW I FELT WHEN I SENT YOU BACK.. YOU...

GAKON GOLUNK
IF WE REMOVE THE COUPLER TO SEPARATE THE LAST CAR AND GET ONTO THAT, THEN WE'RE OUTTA HERE
IF WE WALK AS FAR AS THE TRANSFER STATION AND SLIP INTO THE CROWD, WE CAN ESCAPE
GASHU
AND KIELI...
GASHU
...WHEN THIS IS OVER, DO YOU WANT TO GO EAST OR WEST?
EH?
WHAT... DID HE JUST SAY...?

ALL RIGHT. I'LL GET YOU ON A BOAT
I WANT TO SEE WHAT IT'S LIKE TO BE ON A BOAT
"THE SAND OCEAN"
REALLY? YOU'LL TAKE ME WITH YOU?
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT? THERE'S NOTHING WE CAN DO ABOUT IT NOW I HAVE TO TAKE RESPONSIBILITY FOR MAKING YOU A WANTED CRIMINAL
THAT ISN'T IT
CORREC-TION

WILL YOU COME WITH ME, KIELI?
YES!!

KIELI ...!
GASHI
THAT VOICE.
!!
JOACHIM!!
GASHI

HAR-VEY!!
IT'S OKAY THE COUPLER'S ALMOST OUT.
HURRY OVER...
YOU, TOO, HARVEY. HURRY
WHY ISN'T HE COMING?
HARVEY, NO...

NO! WHY...
GO ON AHEAD I'VE GOT SOME MINOR BUSINESS WITH THAT IDIOT.
STAY OVER THERE !!!
NO! YOU'RE LYING! I'M STAYING WITH YOU!

WE'LL GET ON A BOAT, KIELI.
HAR-
I PROMISE.

SHIT ...!
KIEL!!! !!!

SHE'S ALREADY OUT OF RANGE.
DAM-MIT...!
!!
GUN CANNO
WHAT WERE YOU TRYING TO DO, TAKING KIEL! TO THE CAPITAL?
EPHRAIM... YOU BASTARD! HOW...? I THOUGHT I KILLED YOU...
YO, JOACHIM I HEAR YOU TOOK REAL GOOD CARE OF KIEL!

WHAT WILL I DO? SHOULD I CATCH HER AND KILL HER? OR SELL HER TO SLAVE TRADERS ?
THAT'S ENOUGH.
HEH HEH HEH!
HEH YOU SURE ARE ATTACHED TO HER.
THAT LITTLE GIRL'S JUST GONNA DIE SOON, ANYWAY
I FEEL SO SORRY FOR YOU WHEN YOU'RE DISAPPOINTED, SO I TOOK HER FOR YOU.
BUT I DON'T NEED HER ANYMORE SHE'S NOT AS FUN AS I THOUGHT SHE'D BE
!!
STOP TALKING.

YOU BAS-TARD...
GYUPO (SLAM)
BAN (BAM)
GASHA
GASHA

GUH...
I'M ALIVE...
!!? RIGHT ARM CAME OFF. HUH...?
!
(G) CTHUD
AHH!
!
GORO (ROLL)

JOACHIM'S "CO..E," HUH...? THE CARBONIZATION GUN TURNED THE SURFACE INTO CHARCOAL...
!?
THE IDIOT...
IS HE DEAD...?

Maybe it's about time we gave up too
The Church Soldiers stopped looking and all
...WHERE I SUBSCRIPTED AROUND ALL ALONE.
FROM THAT LONG FLOW OF TIME
...KIEL! WILL TAKE MY HAND.
IF I GO TO THAT LIGHT, I'M SURE...
AHH...
YEAH, I MADE A PROMISE, DIDN'T I...?
TO KIEL!
THE AND-ORED SHA OATS TO MY MIND

SINCE THEN, I'VE BEEN WAITING FOR HARVEY AT THE TRANSFER STATION WHERE THERE ARE TRAINS LEAVING FOR THE "SAND OCEAN."
LET'S GO HOME.
YEAH. .
It's been two weeks since then ..
I WANT TO BE SOMEONE WHO CAN TRAVEL ON HER OWN SO SOMEDAY WHEN I SEE HIM AGAIN...
IT LOOKS LIKE THE CORPORAL WILL KEEP POSSESSING THE RADIO AND STAY IN THIS WORLD A LITTLE LONGER. BUT I'M THINKING I'LL SET OUT THE DAY AFTER TOMORROW.
EEHH? HE'S NOT DEAD.
HE'S ALIVE!
MAMA WHAT'S WRONG WITH THAT GUY JUST NOW?
HE'S DEAD. SOMEONE WILL CALL FOR HELP, SO IT'S OKAY
...I'LL BE A LITTLE STRONGER THAN I AM NOW .

...I HAD A FEELING ...GOD.
PLEASE, GOD YOU DON'T HAVE TO BE THE CHURCH'S GOD.
BUT IF THERE IS A GOD ON THIS PLANET, PLEASE!
PLEASE TAKE OFF THAT COMPLETELY FLAWLESS, IMPARTIAL MASK, JUST FOR NOW, AND GRANT MY WISH
I WON'T ASK FOR ANYTHING ELSE
PLEASE, GOD...

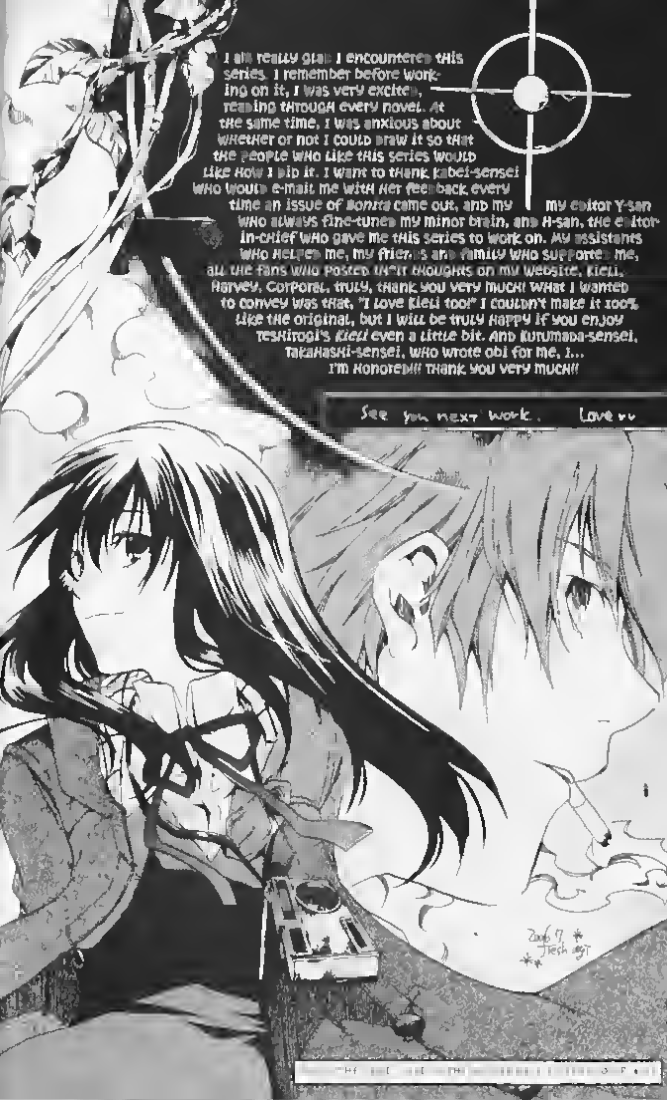
I COULDN'T CLIMB THE STAIRS... GIVE ME A HAND...

I GOT TIRED OF WAITING
GEEZ, YOU'RE LATE...
IF I GO TO THAT LIGHT, I'M SURE...
...KIELI WILL TAKE MY HAND.
THANKS.

I'M SURE SHE'LL PULL ME FROM IT...
FROM THAT LONG, LONG FLOW OF TIME WHERE I JUST DRIFTED AROUND ALL ALONE...
HARVEY?
IT'S NOTHING.

I am really glad I encountered this series. I remember before working on it, I was very excited reading through every novel. At the same time, I was anxious about whether or not I could draw it so that the people who like this series would like how I did it. I want to thank Kabei-sensei who would e-mail me with her feedback every time an issue of *Monta* came out, and my editor Y-san who always fine-tuned my minor brain, and H-san, the editor-in-chief who gave me this series to work on. My assistants who helped me, my friends and family who supported me, all the fans who posted their thoughts on my website, Kieli, Harvey, Corporel, truly, thank you very much! What I wanted to convey was that, "I love *Kieli* too!" I couldn't make it 100% like the original, but I will be truly happy if you enjoy Yoshitoki's *Kieli* even a little bit. And Kurumada-sensei, Takahashi-sensei, who wrote obi for me, I...
I'm honored!!! Thank you very much!!

See you next work. Love yu



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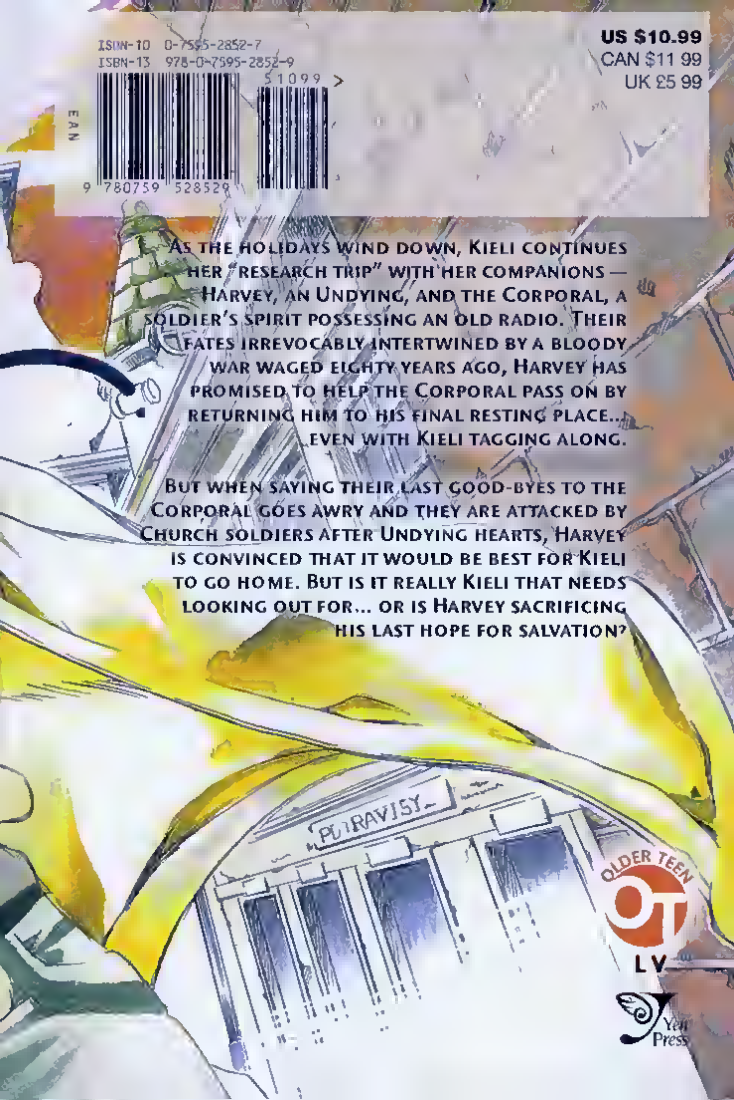
As the holidays wind down, Kieli continues her "research trip" with her companions — Harvey, an Undying, and the Corporal, a soldier's spirit possessing an old radio. Their fates irrevocably intertwined by a bloody war waged eighty years ago, Harvey has promised to help the Corporal pass on by returning him to his final resting place... even with Kieli tagging along.

But when saying their last good-byes to the Corporal goes awry and they are attacked by Church soldiers after Undying hearts, Harvey is convinced that it would be best for Kieli to go home. But is it really Kieli that needs looking out for... or is Harvey sacrificing his last hope for salvation?



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